

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 DPW-01

INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06

TRSE-00 CU-04 OPR-02 AGR-20 DRC-01 /221 W

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O R 041230Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4048

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILAINQEPW

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF
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CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)
JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT-DECEMBER 4, 1973

GENERAL

1. ATTENTION CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHERE A FINAL DECISION OR A VOTE TO POSTPONE THE KHMER REPRESENTATION ISSUE UNTIL NEXT YEAR IS EXPECTED THIS WEEK. PRESIDENT LON NOL MEANWHILE RENEWED THE GKR 6-POINT PEACE PROPOSAL OF LAST JULY AND MADE MORE VISITS TO AREAS AROUND PHNOM PENH AIMRED AT MORALE BUILDING. THERE WAS A MAJOR SETBACK ON THE MILITARY FRONT THIS WEEK AS THE TOWN OF VIHEAR SUOR, 13 KM. NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, FELL TO THE ENEMY. FANK OPERATIONS TO REOPEN ROUTE 4 TO THE SEA REMAIN STALLED AND THE CITY OF TAKEO, ON ROUTE 2 SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL, CAME UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE. WITH THE PROBLEM OF ASSURING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS A MATTER OF EVER MORE SERIOUS CONCERN, EFFORTS ARE UNDER WAY TO REDUCE CON-
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SUMPTION AND INCREASE DELIVERIES FROM ABROAD.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. PRESIDENT LON NOL, SPEAKING IN THE PHNOM PENH SUBURB OF TAKHMAU ON DECEMBER 1, REITERATED THE SIX-POINT GKR PEACE DECLARATION OF JULY 6. THE DECLARATION CALLS FOR STRICT APPLICATION OF THE JANUARY 27 PARIS ACCORDS AS

THEY RELATE TO CAMBODIA, TO BE SUPERVISED BY A RE-ACTIVATED INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION, AND PROPOSES DISCUSSIONS WITH A DELEGATION OF KHMER FROM "THE OTHER SIDE". HE ALSO MADE A "SOLEMN APPEAL" TO CAMBODIANS IN THE "KHMER ROUTE" AND "KHMER ROUMDOS" TO RETURN TO THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY.

3. THE MARSHAL'S VISIT TO TAKHMAU, WHERE HE MET WITH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS AS WELL AS GROUPS OF RALLIESRS AND LOCAL CITIZENS, WAS THE SECOND OF THE WEEK IN HIS CONTINUING PROGRAM OF INSPECTION TOURS TO BOLSTER MORALE FOR THE COMING DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE. EAGDIER, HE TRAVELED TO THE NORTHERN OUTSKIRTS OF PPHNOM PENH TO PIN DECORATIONS ON SEVERAL SOLDIERS OF THE 7TH DIVISION AND RECEIVE ANOTHER GROUP OF RURLIERS.

4. DESPITE CONTINUING REPORTS OF UNREST THERE IS AS YET LITTLE EVIDENCE OF COORDINATED PLANS FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES BY STUDENTS AND/OR TEACHERS. STUDENTS AT THE FACULTY OF LAW, ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVIST SCHOOLS, HAD TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS OF NEW OFFICERS WHEN THEY FAILED TO ATTAIN A QUORUM AT THE ASSEMBLY CALLED FOR THIS PURPOSE. ANOTHER ACTIVIST SCHOOL, THE FACULTY OF LETTERS, HAS NOT YET BEGUN THE ELECTION PROCESS. THE TEACHERS, FOR THEIR PART, HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATION THAT THEY HAVE DEVELOPED EITHER THE ORGANIZATION OR THE LEADERSHIP REQUIRED FOR A SERIOUS PROTEST MOVEMENT. PROSPECTS THUS ARE FOR CONTINUED BUT UNEASY INACTIVITY, AT LEAST IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, ALTHOUGH UNFAVORABLE RESULTS IN THE UN VOTE ON KHMER REPRESENTATION(SEE

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POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

7. THE DATE FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE KHMER REPRESENTATION ISSUE BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS NOW BEEN FIRMLY FIXED FOR DECEMBER 4 WITH A VOTE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW IN ONE OR TWO DAYS. IN VIEW OF THE STRONG POSSIBILITY OF AN UNFAV-

ORABLE OUTCOME ON THE PRO-SIHANOUK RESOLUTION (SPONSORED BY A GROUP OF NON-ALIGNED DELEGATIONS), IF IT SHOULD COME TO A VOTE, SUPPORTERS OF THE GKR WILL PROBABLY ENDEAVOR TO ARRANGE FOR A FRIENDLY NON-COMMITTED DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE A MOTION CALLING FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE ISSUE UNTIL THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION. SUCH A MOTION, IF VOTED UPON, WOULD VERY LIKELY GAIN A MAJORITY.

GRUNK/FUNK

8. SIHANOUK CABLED AFP FROM CANTON DEC 2 TO SNEER AT LON NOL'S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT HE WOUL NOT OPPOSE THE PRINCE'S RETURN TO LIVE IN CAMBODIA AS A SIMPLE CITIZEN. SIHANOUK DECLARED THAT HIS RETURN WOULD CERTAINLY TAKE PLACE BUT RATHER TO CELEBRATE TOTAL VICTORY. PROMISING "SEVERE PUNISHMENT" FOR LON NOL, SIHANOUK REAFFIRMED THAT HE WOULD NOT ENTERTAIN CONTACT WITH LON NOL, OTHER "TRAITORS"
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OR A THIRD FORCE EMISSARY.

9. FANK'S NOV 30 LOSS OF THE VIHEAR SUOR ENCLAVE PROMPTED CLANDESTINE RADIO TO INDULGE IN AN ORGY OF SELF-CONGRATULATION MINGLED WITH PROMISES TO DESTROY OTHER GKR POSITIONS ON THE DEFENSE BELT EAST AND NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL.

ECONOMIC

10. NOW THAT ADEQUATE QUANTITIES OF RICE TO BUILD UP A 90-DAY STOCK LEVEL BY 31 JAN ARE EN ROUTE TO CAMBODIA THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION ON RICE IS SHIFTING TO PORT UNLOADING CAPABILITIES, PRIMARILY IN PHNOM PENH. PORT UNLOADING CAPABILITY FOR RICE IN PHNOM PENH HAS HERETOFORE BEEN APPROXIMATELY 7,000 TONS PER WEEK. THIS PAST WEEK, Owing TO AN EXCEPTIONAL EFFORT, 8,400 TONS WERE UNLOADED. A SHORT TERM PLAN IS NOW BEING PREPARED TO UPGRADE PORT UNLOADING CAPABILITY IN PHNOM PENH TO 10,000 OR MORE TONS PER WEEK. WE EXPECT THAT APPROXIMATELY 31,000 MT'S OF RICE WILL BE ARRIVING VIA THE MEKONG IN DECEMBER AND 37,000 DURING JANUARY. KOMPONG SOM IS SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE APPROXIMATELY 16,000 TONS IN DECMBER AND 14,000 TONS IN JANUARY. THE AMOUNT SCHEDULED FOR KOMPONG SOM CAN BE ACCOMMODATED BY WAREHOUSES THERE AND WHEN RTE 4 IS OPENED, MOST OF THE RICE WILL BE BROUGHT TO PHNOM PENH.

11. THE AVAILABILITY OF POL IS AN IMMENSE PROBLEM WHICH THE GKR HAS TAKEN ONLY INITIAL STEPS TO COPE WITH. FANK HAS UNDERTAKEN TO REDUCE ITS CONSUMPTION OF ALL POL PRODUCTS BY 10 PERCENT AS OF DECEMBER 15TH. THE GKR HAS BEGUN TO RATION CIVILIAN GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUELS BUT, DESPITE

US PRESSURE, HAS NOT YET INCREASED PRICES OR TAKEN THE OTHER RADICAL MEASURES ESSENTIAL TO BRING CONSUMPTION DOWN TO AN ACCEPTABLE CRISES LEVEL. EFFORTS ALSO ARE NOW UNDERWAY WITH THE OIL COMPANIES TO INCREASE SUPPLY. A MAJOR AMOUNT OF POL DUE THE GKR UNDER EXISTING CONTRACTS IS TO BE SUPPLIED BY SUMMIT, THAILAND, WHICH AT THE PRESENT TIME DOES NOT HAVE CRUDE RESOURCES OF ITS OWN AND MAY BE RESTRICTED BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT IN THE AMOUNTS THAT IT ACTUALLY CAN FURNISH. TO MEET THE CONTINGENCY OF

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SUMMIT NON-PERFORMANCE OF CONTRACT AND ALSO OTHER NEEDS IN ORDER TO ASSURE AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF SUPPLY DURING THE ENEMY'S DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE NOW BEGINNING, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE THE MAJOR OIL COMPANIES (SHELL, CALTEX AND EXON) TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY AMOUNTS IN ADDITION TO THEIR CONTRACTUAL OLBIGATIONS. HOWEVER, THE RECENT LOSS BY SHELL OF MAJOR POL RESERVES AT NHA BE (VIET NAM) WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE POL RESUPPLY FOR CAMBODIA MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.

MILITARY

12. THERE WERE THREE AREAS OF MAJOR MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING THE WEEK: ROUTE 4 SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, VIHEAR SUOR ACROSS THE MEKONG 13 KMS. NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL, AND THE ISOLATED PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF TAKEO ON ROUTE 2 TO THE SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH. THE KHMER COMMUNISTS (KC) CONTINUED TO BRING MORE FORCES TO OR NEAR ROUTE 4, AS THE FIRST NIGHT OF THEIR DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE GATHERED MOMENTUM. THE KC HOLD A 15 KM. STRETCH OF THE ROAD SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG SPEU AND RE-PPORTEDLY HAVE SOME UNITS NEAR THE ROAD CLOSER TO PHNOM PENH. FANK HAS DEPLOYED SUBSTANTIAL FORCES TO THE AREA AND A MAJOR ENGAGEMENT FOR CONTROL OF THE ROAD APPEARS LIKELY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE VIHEAR SUOR ENCLAVE, WHICH HAS BEEN SURROUNDED FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS, FELL DURING THE EARLY MORNING OF NOVEMBER 30. LESS THAN HALF OF THE GARRISON OF 525 FOUND THEIR WAY BACK TO FRIENDLY LINES. AT TAKEO, ENEMY PRESSURE HAS FORCED BACK THE PERIMETER. REINFORCEMENTS HAVE BEEN SENT IN, BUT TOUGH FIGHTING REMAINS IF THE PLACE IS TO BE HELD.

ENDERS

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